

Teaching strategy

Idea starters for service and service learning

Ideas for direct service

With people

- Coach children in sports
- Deliver meals to people living with a medical condition
- Lead resume-writing workshops for people who are unemployed
- Organize or assist at a blood drive
- Play music with elders to have an exchange of skills and learn about each other's music preferences and talents, and then perform as an ensemble for others
- Distribute plants at a farmer's market to promote home-grown container gardens
- Serve food at a soup kitchen

With the environment

- Restore a stream
- Prepare the soil and beds for an elementary school garden and plant with the children
- Grow seedlings for distribution
- Install raised-bed gardens for a senior centre
- Establish a recycling program at city hall
- Make a storm-water garden

With animals

- Help at an animal shelter with data entry and dog walking
- Assist with a pet adoption outreach program at community events
- Lead a workshop on pet care
- Set up a turtle sanctuary in partnership with a community organization

Ideas for indirect service

With people

- Assemble a photo exhibit about poverty for a gallery
- Prepare meals in a soup kitchen
- Take part in a walkathon to raise money for different humanitarian causes
- Prepare activity kits for children for an emergency shelter
- Write brochures for organizations

- Build an organization's website or provide content for an organization's website
- Assist with the creation of a museum exhibit
- Make exercise videos to give to homeless shelters
- Create a newsletter for a retirement community
- Record audio books for people who are visually impaired

With the environment

- Prepare signage for a local wetland
- Grow seedlings for distribution
- Initiate a school compost to reduce food waste in landfills
- Create a website with information about flora and fauna for a local park

With animals

- Make zoo toys for animals
- Collect needed supplies for a wildlife rescue centre
- Bake dog biscuits for an animal shelter
- Make colouring books with protection tips on local endangered animals for elementary schools and tourists

Ideas for advocacy service

With people

- Lead a town hall meeting on solar energy
- Organize a letter-writing campaign for a cause
- Host a speaker and film series to raise awareness for the community
- Create comic strips or comic books to teach about emergency safety and readiness
- Plan a conference to raise awareness about education equity

With the environment

- Provide reusable water bottles to replace single-use water bottles
- Create public service announcements on energy reduction in homes
- Organize a flash mob to teach about recycling
- Promote a "just use less" campaign to reduce quantities of what is put in trash and recycling bins

With animals

- Make beach signs to protect local waterways from rubbish

- Advocate for animals at risk at an organized public event
- Create posters, videos and public service announcements to promote animal adoption for a shelter

Ideas for research service

With people

- Assist with a city-wide needs assessment by running focus groups
- Conduct hands-on research about how interaction improves quality of life for residents at an elder care facility
- Prepare a public service outreach process to identify local veterans willing to be interviewed, and then conduct the interviews for an historical society
- Learn about the history of people buried in a cemetery from the 1800s to support a local museum
- Observe play habits of children in an orphanage or refugee centre to identify what skills are developed or need support

With the environment

- Use photography to collect images that inform about the first flush from a storm drain by your school
- Interview administrators at local landfills to learn about community habits that support collections of trash to recycle and food waste for composting
- Analyse items collected in a community or beach clean-up to develop a campaign (advocacy service) that prevents the items from being littered again

With animals

- Conduct a behaviour study of zoo animals or shelter animals
- Monitor numbers of stray animals, combine findings with interviews and surveys to determine opinions of advocates, opponents and the general public, and offer recommendations to improve local policies
- Assist with tracking and monitoring of butterfly migratory paths.

MORE Ideas for Service and Service Learning

Direct Service

Indirect Service

Advocacy

Research